**In the Claims:**

1.      (Currently amended) A method of handling a resource request, by a Generic Local Lookup Service (GLLS) [[at]] in a client network ~~edge~~ and a Generic Domain Lookup System (GDLS) at a location remote from the client network ~~edge~~, comprising the steps of:

        receiving a resource request at the GLLS from a client in the client network, the resource request identifying the requested resource;

        the GLLS forwarding the resource request to the GDLS

        the GDLS searching a database for a resource record associated with the requested resource the resource record including a series of executable instructions;

        the GDLS analysing a set of resource providers and determining the resource providers compatible with the resource request;

        the GDLS transmitting a response containing a list of resource providers to the GLLS, the list including server selection criteria associated with the resource providers;

        the GLLS selecting the best resource provider in the list according to the server selection criteria; and

        the GLLS executing the executable instructions to facilitate providing the requested resource to the client by the best resource provider.

2.      (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the resource request further comprises information relating to client location in the network and access speed.

3.      (Cancelled)

4.      (Cancelled)

5.      (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the information is added to the resource request after said resource request is received at the GLLS from the client.

6.      (Cancelled)

7.      (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the GLLS is a DNS server and the step of receiving a resource request comprises receiving a request concerning access to the resource provider.

8.      (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of the:the GLLS:
            converting the resource request into a form operable by the GDLS; and
            transmitting the converted resource request to the GDLS.

9.      (Cancelled)

10.     (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the requested resource is provided to the client by the best resource provider via the GLLS.

11.     (Cancelled)

12.     (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the resource provider is an application.

13.     (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the resource provider is a server operating an application.

14.     (Cancelled)

15.     (Cancelled)

16.    (Cancelled)

17.    (Cancelled).

18.    (Cancelled)

19.    (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the resource request is a DNS record and the information in the resource request is contained within an additional DNS text field forming part of the DNS record.

20.    (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the response transmitted by the GDLS is a DNS record and the server selection criteria of the compatible resource providers are contained within an additional DNS text field forming part of the DNS record.

21.    (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising identifying a lookup means for accessing said resource provider.

22.    (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the look up means comprises an address.

23.    (Original) A method according to Claim 21 wherein the identifying comprises retrieving a second identity of the network entity.

24.    (Original) A method according to claim 23 wherein the first identity comprises a name and the second identity comprises an address.

25.    (Currently amended) A DNS record for conveying a response to a resource request message from a GDLS, at a ~~remote~~ location remote to a client network ~~edge~~, to a GLLS [[at a]]in the client network ~~edge~~, comprising a user-defined text-field for specifying Content Selection Criteria for finding a preferred resource

provider for providing a requested resource; the preferred resource provider being defined by the resource provider that is most compatible with the requested resource.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) A scaleable architecture for handling a resource request from a client in a client network, the resource request comprising a first identity of a resource provider, the architecture comprising:

a GLLS ~~at a~~ in the client network ~~edge~~ for providing the requested resource to the client from a preferred resource provider in response to receiving the resource request from the client, said preferred resource provider being defined by as the resource provider that is most compatible with the resource request with respect to Content Selection Criteria contained in the resource request; and

a GDLS at a ~~remote~~ location remote from the client network ~~edge~~ for returning a set of resource providers in response to receiving a converted resource request from the GLLS.

28. (Previously presented) An architecture according to claim 27, wherein the resource request further comprises information on the client, and the preferred resource provider is defined as the resource provider that is most compatible with the client information; wherein the GLLS further comprises a comparator for comparing the returned set of resource providers with information on the client to produce an ordered list of resource providers with the preferred resource provider first.

29. (Previously presented) An architecture according to claim 28, further comprising a content distribution point manager (CDPM) associated with the GDLS, the CDPM holding information on resource providers, said CDPM configured to provide information on all known resource providers able to supply the requested resource on receiving a query from the GLLS corresponding to the resource request received by the GLLS.

30.        (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed on entities within a network, cause the entities to perform a method for handling a resource request, the method comprising the steps of;

receiving a resource request at a GLLS at in a client network edge from a client in the client network, the resource request identifying the requested resource;

the GLLS forwarding the resource request to a GDLS at a location remote from the client network edge;

the GDLS searching a database for a resource record associated with the requested resource the resource record including a series of executable instructions;

the GDLS analysing a set of resource providers and determining the resource providers compatible with the resource request;

the GDLS transmitting a response containing a list of resource providers to the GLLS, the list including server selection criteria associated with the resource providers;

the GLLS selecting the best resource provider in the list according to the server selection criteria; and

the GLLS executing the executable instructions to facilitate providing the requested resource to the client by the best resource provider.


31.    (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the server selection criteria includes information on one of the group comprising: a response time of said resource provider, a load on said resource provider, a distance to the resource provider from the client, and a throughput of the resource provider.


32.    (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the requested resource is available on the resource provider but is not available on the GLLS.

33.    (Previously presented) A communications network comprising the scaleable architecture as claimed in claim 27.

34.    (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the list of resource providers transmitted by the GDLS is in order of their compatibility with the resource request, the most compatible resource provider placed first.

35.    (Previously presented)  A method according to Claim 1 wherein the GLLS includes a Content Distribution Point Manager (CDPM), the CDPM adapted to provide information about local resource providers within an ISP domain.

36.    (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the GDLS includes a Content Distribution Point Manager (CDPM), the CDPM adapted to provide information about resource providers throughout the network.